





Spotlight on the District

Mike Bunch

Resource Management Officer

By Mark Kane

A District “newbie” to some, Mike Bunch started with the District in April 1999, but has successfully found a way to excel through 23 years of government service, while barely leaving his birthplace of Moline, Ill.

As the Chief of the Resource Management Office, Bunch ensures his employees learn what career opportunities are available for them so they can compete against government employees located in areas prone to better career opportunities. Bottomline, he wants them to take advantage of the same kind of opportunities that have helped his career.

His efforts to equally raise his employees’ awareness of career opportunities recently earned him the 2000 Equal Employment Opportunity Champion of the Year award at the District’s Women’s Equality Day luncheon, August 9.

“I was surprised I got it,” said Bunch. “Because I was being recognized for doing what you’re supposed to do. All the chiefs are expected to do those kind of things.”

Bunch insists the award is a reflection of the success of his office.

“It’s a bi-product of my office which a vast majority are women, and by briefing them about what career opportunities are available to them it increases their success,” said Bunch. “That is a measure of a supervisor, to develop your employees so they can move on.”

Knowing what it takes to move on is exactly what Bunch has taken time to carefully figure out.

“Typically to get to the highest rating you’ll have to interact with higher officials,” said Bunch. “But here at the Rock Island District employees may not have the same opportunities as those located in other areas. When you figure out how to give your employees those same opportunities, you’re doing your

standards after routinely scouring the Internet for the most up-to-date changes in the CP11 program. He not only passed the information on to his employees, but he produced a PowerPoint demonstration and briefed the local chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

Bunch also received the EEO Champion of the Year award for his presentation of Chief Blackhawk, made to educate his audience about the rich cultural history of the Indian people of the Quad City area. He also presented a resource management business briefing to a class of high school business students.

Bunch began his career with the Army in 1974 as a keypunch operator while earning his college credits at night.

He also worked for the Army Armament Materiel Readiness Command, and the Information Systems Command, both located at Rock Island Arsenal.

Bunch lives with his wife Julie and their two sons Greg, 16, and Ryan, 13, in Coal Valley, Ill.

His hobbies include softball, basketball and collecting music, “that ranges from 60s Deep Purple to Blue Grass,” said Bunch.

Bunch’s advice to anyone reading this article is to, “be able to enjoy yourself and don’t take your work home with you.”

“I was in intensive care for four days and almost had to have a heart transplant and I never wished that I should’ve spent more time at work,” said Bunch. “Most important ... treat people the way you want to be treated.” 🏠



Photo by Mark Kane

Mike Bunch, Resource Management, discusses one of many daily office issues with Pat Ballman, Resource Management.

employees right.”

Bunch stressed how new standards, especially in the CP11 (comptroller) career program, will impact his employees’ careers.

“By the new standards the individuals in Resource Management today wouldn’t be qualified to hold their own position if the rules that are coming down the pike are enforced,” said Bunch. “Right now they’re looking for higher education at lower grades with an emphasis on on-going education.”

Bunch discovered some of the new

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On the Cover

Emily Bowen, park Ranger, Lake Red Rock, talks to Don Bardole, park ranger, Mississippi River Visitor Center, during a recent personal watercraft held in the Quad Cities.

Photo by Mark Kane



Steven Boka, Muscatine Building & Zoning administrator, tells Kevin Holden, from Engineering Division, why the City of Muscatine chose these park benches for their American Discovery Trail. Boka said, the benches were chosen because of their ability to withstand vandalism and their comfort, "there's not much to carve on and the holes allow for air circulation."

Riverside Pe

Story and Photos by Justine Dodge, Public Affairs

The City of Muscatine, Iowa, has recently acquired a new "string of pearls" on its riverfront. Muscatine Mayor Richard O'Brien, called the new lighting system on the city's American Discovery Trail a "string of pearls." The lighting project was dedicated on Aug. 29 in a ceremony at Pearl City Station, near the trail.

The Rock Island District provided the site design for the project, including the selection and location of benches, litter receptacles and 86 ornamental lights along 1.3 miles of the city's new trail, which is built on top of the District's recently completed levee.

The City asked the District to work on

the project in order to "design lighting and seating to be located and installed along the trail in a manner consistent with good levee design," said Kevin Holden, Engineering Division's landscape architect.

A product development team was formed to consider all design factors,

which included preserving the integrity of the levee, user comfort and safety, aesthetics, and the city's project goals.

"It was a good team project between us and the city. They were open to our ideas and we always kept their goals in mind," Holden said.

Members of the District's product

"It restored
citizen enthusi-
asm in
riverfront ef-
forts."

~ Larry Wolf

development team were: Holden, John Quick, Cliff Artis, Sibte Zaidi, Matt Clark, and Chuck Van Laarhoven, all from Engineering Division.

One of the considerations in the design and location of the lighting was how to supply electrical power to the lights. "We didn't want electrical conduit running through and across the levee, compromising its integrity," Holden said.


To prevent this, the conduit was run through a non-levee area to the riverside of the levee and then, from fixture to fixture, parallel to the trail and just a few inches below the top of the levee.

Taking levee integrity into consideration during the design of the lighting

project saved the city money in the long run, Holden said.

"We were in a position to consider all aspects of the project -- bringing all the considerations to bear in a single package."

Larry Wolf, director of Parks and Recreation for the city, said, "This was the first project the city has completed with no citizen complaints. It restored citizen enthusiasm in riverfront efforts."

The work was completed under the Corps' Support for Others Program. Through this program, the District carries out cost-reimbursable work for other state, federal and local agencies. The design cost the city \$15,000. 

Ceremony attendees walk along the city's recently completed American Discovery Trail. "We're really excited to see how many people are using this trail, especially in the evening, since the lights and benches were installed," said Larry Wolf, director of Parks and Recreation for the city.

arks



Don Bardole, park ranger, Mississippi River Visitor Center, discusses the day's "lessons learned" with PWC workshop participant Greg Hunter, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Personal Watercraft Behind

Story and photos by Mark Kane

The Rock Island District in cooperation with the Personal Watercraft Industry Association co-sponsored a personal watercraft workshop behind the Mark of the Quad Cities on the Mississippi River, August 29.

The educational workshop provided an opportunity for federal, state, and local agencies, along with industry representatives, to discuss the issues and findings of recent Corps of Engineers/PWIA nationwide workshops.

"With the increasing popularity of personal watercraft on our rivers and lakes, this recreational sport has tremendously challenged traditional recreation management efforts," said John Punkiewicz, Operations Division.

"The Corps has been working with the PWIA on a number of initiatives in other parts of the country to address and resolve the impacts of personal watercraft use," said Punkiewicz. "The workshop provided a unique opportunity for Corps personnel, other government entities, state and local boating law enforcement agencies, and local PWC suppliers to meet face-to-face with industry personnel to discuss specific issues related to the impacts of personal watercraft activities on our waters."

Don Bardole, park ranger, Mississippi River Visitor Center, patrolled the waterway while workshop participants tested out a personal watercraft, some for the first time.

"For the people that are in enforcement they're learning about what it's like to ride a PWC as a beginner and some of the differences between operating a boat and a PWC," said Bardole. "In a boat you can still steer if you lose power, if you lose power in a PWC it's dead in the water. They're also learning that a


PWC can float in extremely shallow water and we can't get in there with our boats to help them. A PWC will draft at about eight inches, while our boats draft at about 2.5 feet of water."

After only a couple of minutes of riding a PWC, most of the participants understood why the watercraft are so popular and why the public tend to get into trouble while using them.

"It's so easy to accelerate and so hard to slow down," said Emily Bowen, park ranger, Lake Red Rock. "This helps me sympathize with the public just a little bit. There's a lot of 'wave runners' at Lake Red Rock and sometimes they cause trouble."

Currently District park rangers don't use personal watercraft for enforcement, but Kevin Ewbank, lead park ranger, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center, feels they should.

"There's a lot of emphasis on community policing and having the ability for a ranger to approach a crowd using a PWC, as opposed to one of our big boats, is much friendlier," said Ewbank.

"We could use them to get out to the public more readily and educate them on the safety of how to use a PWC," said Ewbank. "That's an important use for them, not for chasing people down in shallow water, which maybe the perception of why we want them so much." 





Kevin Ewbank, lead park ranger, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center, bumps up his PWC experience a couple notches.

tercraft Training Behind the Scenes



Shawn Meyer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, pulls away from the Corps of Engineers boat on scene to continue his PWC training.



Dave Peterson and Keith Bloomer, Locks and Dam 14, lock a tow through the main lock at Locks and Dam 14.

When Lives Are On The Line

Help! We're headed into the dam! That plea for help instantly changed an otherwise ordinary June workday into a lifesaving event.

On June 11, Keith Bloomer, Darrell Navratil and Dave Peterson, Locks and Dam 14, didn't hesitate a second in saving the lives of four recreational boaters early this summer.

Dave Peterson, shifthead at Locks and Dam 14, recalled the event.

"At approximately 11:30 a.m., shouts for help were heard coming from above the dam," said Peterson. "Keith Bloomer and I were just letting a recreation craft out of the main lock southbound. Keith and I went to the upper end and saw a ski boat with four people in it drifting toward the dam above tainter gates three and four.

"Keith prepared the upper lifeboat for launching while I went to the dam and started gates 3 and 4 down while calling Darrell Navratil from the auxiliary lock to come help.

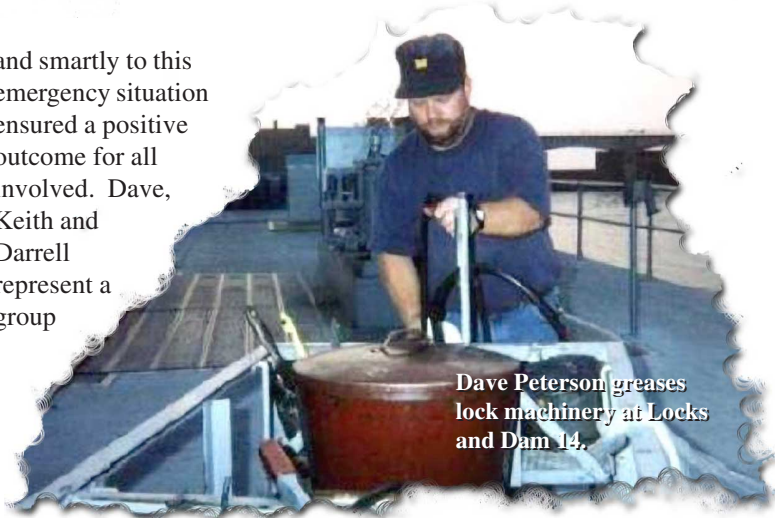
"The individuals in the boat had an anchor in the water and had stopped drifting toward the dam approximately 250 feet above tainter gate three," said Peterson. "Darrell and I pulled alongside in our lifeboat and secured them to us and proceeded back up along the outside wing wall and into the approach for the main lock.

"(Then we) towed their boat to the boat ramp below the auxiliary lock where they were able to secure it and call someone to come get them," said Peterson.

Although the description may sound easy, the lifesaving process took one hour and 20 minutes.

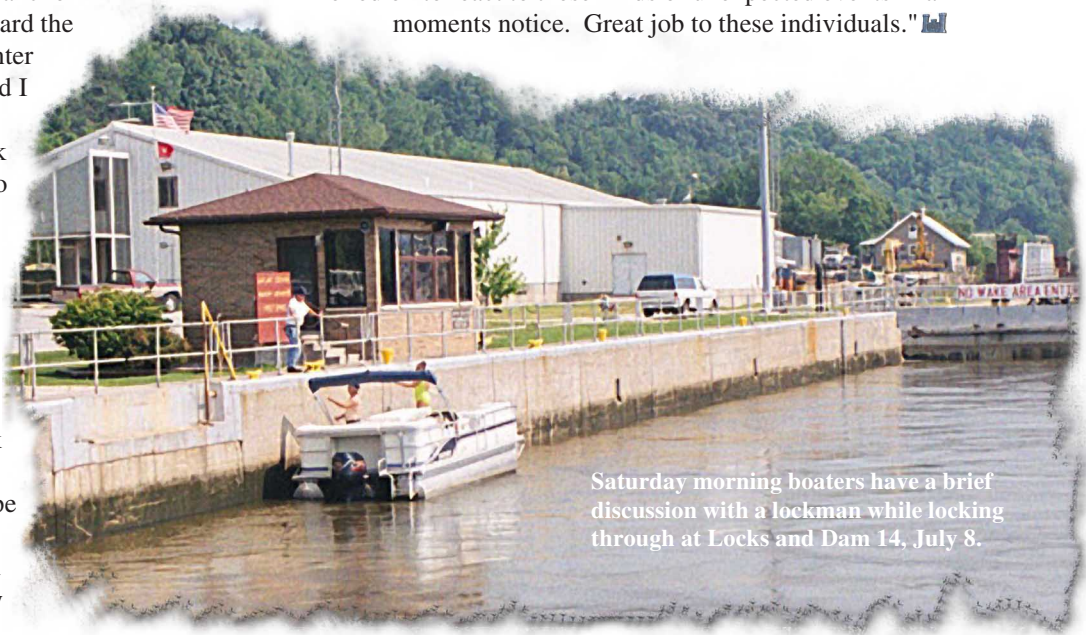
"These individuals consider this type of action 'all in a days work,'" said Roger Harroun, lockmaster, Locks and Dam 14. "Their ability to react swiftly

and smartly to this emergency situation ensured a positive outcome for all involved. Dave, Keith and Darrell represent a group



Dave Peterson greases lock machinery at Locks and Dam 14.

of individuals who man the lock walls in the Rock Island District night and day in all kinds of weather conditions and are relied on to react to these kinds of unexpected events in a moments notice. Great job to these individuals." 🇺🇸



Saturday morning boaters have a brief discussion with a lockman while locking through at Locks and Dam 14, July 8.

Back in Time

By Kevin Ewbank, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

Visitors to the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center were treated to a blast from the past. When the grounds of the Center were converted into a French fur trader camp.

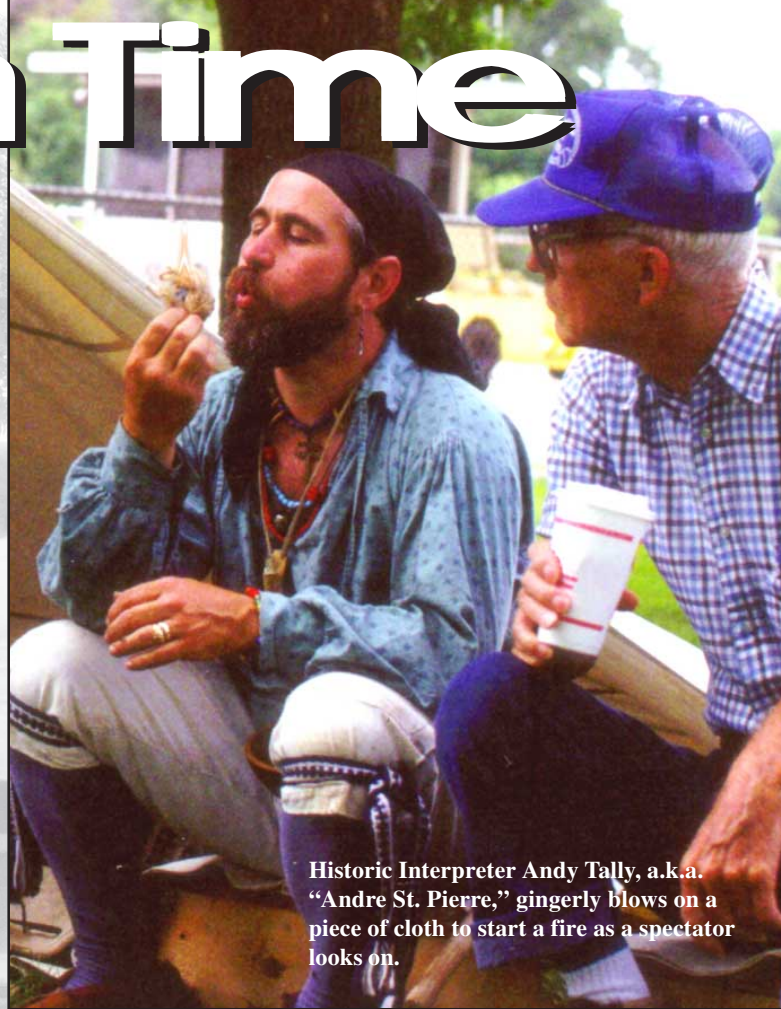
Historic Interpreter Andy Tally paid a visit that weekend to bring to life Andre St. Pierre, a 17th century French voyager. Visitors were treated to a first hand account of life during the times of the fur traders.

Tally played the part of a French voyager perfectly. Dressed in authentic apparel of the times, Andre described in vivid detail what he experienced on a day-to-day basis, trading furs with the Native Americans up and down the Illinois River Valley. Whether playing his flute or starting a fire without matches, visitors clung to Andre's every colorful description.

In addition to Andre's colorful personality, everyone was treated to a display of the tools of the trade of a French voyager. Furs, tools, flutes and packs were all part of the presentation.

Visitors from across the state were able to experience the first-person accounts in the third-annual Waterway Through History weekend. In addition to Andre, the Visitor Center had historic photographs and documents that chronicled the history of the Illinois River, from the days of fur traders, to the important commercial and natural resource it is today.

Most visitors walked away asking the same question, "When will Andre be back next year?" 🏰



Historic Interpreter Andy Tally, a.k.a. "Andre St. Pierre," gingerly blows on a piece of cloth to start a fire as a spectator looks on.

Photo by Mark Klimaszewski, park ranger, IWVC

Vice President Locks Through District

The morning after the Democratic National Convention, Vice President Al Gore and Senator Joe Lieberman launched a 400-mile riverboat tour along the Mississippi River.

The tour started in La Crosse, Wis., ended in Hannibal, Mo., and locked through Rock Island District locks 11 - 21.

Although the Vice President's schedule didn't allow him to travel through every lock on the tour, he did get the chance to meet some of the lock crew members.

"Once the Vice President and Senator Lieberman finished talking to the crowd they came back to the boarding ramp and shook hands with the entire lock crew and thanked us all," said Larry Reeve, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 20.

"The Secret Service, State Police, Sheriff's Department, EOD (the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team), and local authorities were very impressed with the job the employees of the Corps of Engineers did in preparation," said Reeve.

Vice President Gore and Texas Governor George W. Bush are currently running for President.

Additional information on registering to vote can be found at the Federal Voting Assistance Program, www.fvap.ncr.gov. 🏰



Leonard Ernst, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 12, and John Mueller, assistant lockmaster, Lock and Dam 12, pose for a quick photograph with Vice President Gore. "As is turned out we never had to stop navigation while he was here," said Ernst. "We just slowed down operations until he left."



Around the District

Civil War Breaks Out at Thompson Causeway

Thomson Causeway hosted the annual volunteer "Civil War Encampment" featuring Battery H of 2nd Illinois Light Artillery.

The weekend event included campground interpretive presentations, artillery demonstrations and drills as well as a civil war-era encampment open to campground users and day visitors.

More than 200 spectators participated in the event that continues to be a popular draw for campers and day use visitors.

District Competes for President's Quality Award

Recently the Rock Island District was selected by Corps headquarters, along with Huntsville, Huntington, and Savannah districts, to compete for the 2001 President's Quality Award.

The PQA program is the federal government's equivalent to the commercial industry's Malcolm Baldrige Award for Performance Excellence. The program recognizes organizations demonstrating improved levels of high performance and results, using quality management principles and practices.

The Huntsville and Huntington districts were selected to compete at the Department of Defense level.

Kelly Gilhooly, Executive Office, and Mike O'Keefe, Operations Division, were recognized by DA panel examiners for the 2001 PQA.

An article by Gilhooly will appear in the October issue.



Now It's Time to Play

The second of two replacement playgrounds has been installed by the project maintenance staff at Saylorville Lake.

The new playground equipment replaces deteriorated wood equipment removed from the Cherry Glen picnic area and the Bob Shetler campground.

The new equipment is attractive and was designed and installed to be accessible to wheelchair users.

Recent Retirements ...

Steffen R. Weinert, Operations Division, Maintenance Section, Project Maintenance Unit was an engineering equipment operator and retired Aug. 31, after serving 20 years and eight months with the federal government.

Jon M. Merritt, Lock and Dam 17, was the lockmaster of Lock and Dam 17 and retired Aug. 2, after serving 33 years and eight months with the federal government.

Donald E. Henke, Starved Rock Lock and Dam, was a lock and dam operator and retired July 29, after serving 15 years and 10 months with the federal government.

Congrats ...

Congratulations to **Mohamed and Khadija Moussa**, Engineering Division, on the birth of a new daughter, Leila Farah, August 13. She weighed nine pounds and four ounces.

Congratulations to **Damon Barati**, Information Management, and **Justine Dodge**, Public Affairs, who married on Sept. 2, in Bettendorf, Iowa, at Jumer's Castle Lodge.

Sympathy ...

Michael W. "Mike" Tampir, 50, Swisher, Iowa, passed away Aug. 15. Tampir was a member of the Coralville Lake maintenance crew since 1974.

He was a member of the Swisher American Legion and a Vietnam Marine veteran. Tampir loved the outdoors and was a friend of nature.

He was born Dec. 30, 1949, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Speakers Bureau

By Justine Dodge, Public Affairs

On Aug. 4, **Joe Raoul**, Engineering Division, spoke with ninth- and tenth-grade students as part of an event held by the Midtown Education Foundation in Chicago, Ill. Raoul discussed his educational background and his experiences as an engineer with the Corps. The goal of the event was to encourage students to become engineers.

A presentation on the Henry P. Bosse Mississippi River Prints was given at Thomson Causeway, Ill., on Aug. 5.

Justine Dodge, from the Public Affairs Office, discussed the prints with the Causeway campers who attended the presentation.

Karen Hagerty, from Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division, spoke with more than thirty members of the local community who are working together to restore and improve the Duck Creek Watershed. Hagerty was part of the Duck Creek Watershed Partnering Meeting on Aug. 22 at the Lyndsey Park Boat Club in Davenport, Iowa.

Notes from the Mississippi*

Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

- ✓ Solar chargers on lifeboats and bridge crane replaced.
- ✓ Hazardous material sign installed on generator building.

Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa

- ✓ Rotted and loose planking replaced on upper wall.
- ✓ Preventative maintenance performed on upper lifeboat and pontoon.

Lock and Dam 13, Clinton, Iowa

- ✓ "Dusty," the lock dog, passed away.
- ✓ Miter gate grating installed on all miter gates.

Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa

- ✓ Upper and lower bullnoses painted.
- ✓ Hosted four boat license refresher classes.

Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.

- ✓ Grating on number 1 and number 3 gates painted.
- ✓ Dam pier houses cleaned and painted.

Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa

- ✓ Dam safety blocks adjusted.
- ✓ Life boat drills conducted.
- ✓ Mule rail fasteners repaired.

Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.

- ✓ Rotary limit switches adjusted on valves.
- ✓ Traveling mooring bit repaired.

Lock and Dam 18, Burlington, Iowa

- ✓ Tug scooter direction switch replaced.
- ✓ Drift wood removed from dam.
- ✓ Tainter chain covers installed by contractor.

Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa

- ✓ Upper intake grating inspected by divers.
- ✓ New pneumatic wheels installed on bulkhead lifter.
- ✓ Lower I-wall handrail replaced.

Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.

- ✓ Lower two haulage sheave repaired.
- ✓ Upper leave and signs cleaned.
- ✓ Block heater in stand-by generator replaced.

Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.

- ✓ Drift and mud cleaned out of auxiliary gate pits.
- ✓ Four dam walkway bulbs replaced.

Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.

- ✓ Mud and debris removed from lower boat ramp.
- ✓ Pad eyes welded on upper I-wall for helper boats' use.

*This is a small sample of work completed at District Locks and Dams throughout the month.

CFC 2000 to Kickoff

The Rock Island District Combined Federal Campaign is gearing up for another great campaign.

Upcoming events include:

- Sept. 21 - Kickoff and Rally Walk, 11:30 a.m., at Bldg. 390, Rock Island Arsenal.
- Oct. 17 - 4th Annual CFC Chili Cook off, 11:00 a.m., in front of the Clock Tower Annex.
- Last week of October - CFC Auction.

CFC is an annual fund-raising drive conducted by Federal employees in their workplace each fall. Each year Federal employees and military personnel raise millions of dollars through the CFC to benefit thousands of non-profit charities.

The CFC's tradition of commitment to the community through the selfless efforts of Federal employees, has its roots in the

many charitable campaigns of the early 1960s. Seeing a need to bring the diversity of fundraising efforts under one umbrella, Federal employees created the CFC—one campaign, once a year.

By allowing employees to select the organizations of their choice from a single brochure and to make their contributions through payroll deductions, the CFC opened wide the door to more opportunities for generous giving to literally hundreds of worthy causes.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the Federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. It continues to be the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world.

Questions concerning the CFC can be directed to Ron Williams, ext. 5414.

CFC on the 'net: www.opm.gov/cfc



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN THE DISTRICT

BY DIANE DEMEYER, ENGINEERING DIVISION



¡HOLA MIS AMIGOS!

Hispanic Heritage Month 2000 will be a month to remember here at the Rock Island District!

Events to be held during the yearly observance of the great contributions of Hispanic-Americans include: a workshop on interviewing skills; a prayer breakfast; and an Hispanic trivia contest -- with prizes to be awarded, including dinner at a local authentic Mexican restaurant.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Children: Our Hope for the Future."

Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, is observed nationally by order of Public Law 100-402, approved Aug. 17, 1988. Public Law 90-498, approved in 1968, was the original proclamation of (then) Hispanic Heritage Week and called upon by people of the United States to observe the event with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Activities scheduled for the Rock Island District observance include:

- **Hispanic Kickoff** - Music will fill the lunchroom and Mexican wedding cakes (prepared by your own co-workers) will be available for tasting.
- **Workshop**: "Effective Interview Techniques" - Mr. Jon Cook will provide insight into the critical skill of job interviewing. Learn how to present yourself professionally and compete effectively for job opportunities. To be held the last week of September. Look for further details later.
- **Hispanic Trivia Quiz**: Trivia questions will be sent out via Distribution D on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Hispanic Heritage Month. The top three winners will win one of three prizes: dinner for two at Jalapenos; a Marc Anthony compact disc; or a piñata.
- **Prayer Breakfast**: This event, sponsored by the Chaplain's office, will be held on October 4 from 6:30 a.m. through 7:30 a.m., at the Naval Reserve Center. Our speaker will be Father Rudy Juarez, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Davenport and a very active proponent of the local Hispanic community. Part of the proceeds from the breakfast will benefit Corps Day.

Mark your calendar and plan to join your co-workers in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month 2000! Your points of contact are your Hispanic Employment Program Managers: Darryl Carattini, Programs and Project Management, and Diane DeMeyer, Engineering Division.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ON THE 'NET



www.tabasco.com/html/taste_septrelease.html

www.latino.com/article.php3/000808heri

www.hisp.com/sep98/50things.html

www.hispanicheritagemonth.org

c1net.ucr.edu/heritage/hhhispan.htm

